

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR JA KS PINT

SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE - SEPTEMBER 6

SUMMARY: ALL MEDIA CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG THURSDAY EVENING, WITH NHK-TV DEVOTING HALF HOUR TO REVIEW CENTERED ON CRUCIAL DIET DEBATE OF CASE. UNUSUALLY HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP WITH. FONMIN OHIRA, UNABLE NOW TO DENY COMPLICITY OF ROK AGENTS IN CASE, ARGUED IN DIET THAT VIOLATION OF JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD REQUIRE PROOF THAT ROK AGENTS INVOLVED ACTUALLY INVOKED QTE GOVERNMENTAL POWERS UNQTE. TEMPORARILY DIET DEBATE CENTERS MORE ON DEVELOPMENTS STEMMING FROM GOJ REQUEST THAT KIM DONG-WOON SUBMIT VOLUNTARILY TO JAPANESE POLICE QUESTIONING. HOWEVER, IN BACKGROUND POLICE SOURCES CONTINUE TO FEED FACTS TO MEDIA IMPLICATING LARGE NUMBER OF KOREAN SUSPECTS AND OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR FIRMER GOJ STAND. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION THURSDAY FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ROK REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH GOJ REQUEST TO QUESTION ROK EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG-WOON. OHIRA REITERATED THAT GOJ STILL INTENDS TO CLARIFY CASE ON BASIS OF THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

2. IN SAME SESSION OHIRA ALSO SAID THAT GOJ WOULD WELCOME SEATING OF BOTH KOREAS IN UN, BUT NOTED THAT THIS DEPENDS ON INTENTIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN DIVIDED PENINSULA. EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE WOULD HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON MATTER AT UNGA, OHIRA STATED THAT GOJ HAS NO INTENTION OF LINKING KIM CASE TO LARGER ISSUE OF SEATING BOTH KOREAS IN UN.

3. IN LENGTHY EXCHANGE WITH AKIRA KUROYANAGI (KOMEITO) MUCH OF WHICH SHOWN ON EVENING TV NEWS, OHIRA SOUGHT TO PRESERVE DWINDLING ROOM FOR MANEUVER BY GOJ BY STRESSING THAT JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE BEEN VIOLATED, IPSO FACTO, EVEN SHOULD IT BE DEMONSTRATED THAT ROKG AGENTS

ACTING INDIVIDUALLY HAD CONDUCTED KIM ABDUCTION. TEST OF VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY, OHIRA REASONED, WOULD BE WHETHER SUCH INDIVIDUAL ROKG AGENTS INVOKED QTE GOVERNMENTAL POWERS UNQTE OF ROK TO CARRY OUT ACTION. OHIRA THUS ATTEMPTED TO PARRY MOUNTING PRESSURES BEING EXERTED BY OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN AND PRESS FOR EARLY GOJ ACTION AGAINST ROK. AT SAME TIME OHIRA SEEMED TO SUGGEST POSSIBLE SAFE EXIT TOWARD COMPROMISE POLITICAL SOLUTION OF POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK.

4. IN COMMITTEE SESSION HIDEO DEN (JSP) PRESSED FOR EXPLANATION OF DIPLOMATIC STEPS GOJ MIGHT CONSIDER IF ROKG CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST THAT ABSENT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG-WOON VOLUNTARILY APPEAR FOR POLICE QUESTIONING. OHIRA REITERATED THAT GOJ WOULD REQUEST ROKG TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, AND WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBLE FUTURE STEPS IN LIGHT OF ROKG RESPONSE.

5. DEN REVEALED IN COMMITTEE THAT HE INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCE IN SEOUL THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG IS BELIEVED TO BE IN POOR HEALTH. DEN STATED THAT SOURCE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT KIM WISHES TO RETURN TO JAPAN WITH WIFE AND NINE-YEAR OLD SON, WHICH KIM BELIEVES HE COULD DO SAFELY, PROVIDED JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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POLICE COME TO MEET HIM (PRESUMABLY IN SEOUL.) ACCORDING TO DEN, KIM BELIEVES THAT DANGER THREATENING HIS LIFE IS CLOSING IN ON HIM. OHIRA REPLIED THAT GOJ HAS REPEATED REQUEST THAT ROKG COOPERATE IN FINDING SOLUTION TO KIM ABDUCTION, ACCEPTABLE AT HOME AND ABROAD. HOWEVER, OHIRA ALSO NOTED ROK INSISTENCE THAT IT COULD NOT COOPERATE WITH GOJ WHILE CASE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION THERE.

6. IN ADDITION, DEN ASKED THAT MOFA CONFIRM INFORMATION IN HIS POSSESSION THAT KIM IN-SU, ATTACHE OF ROKEMBASSY IN TOKYO, SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN UNITED STATES IN JULY. DEN SAID THAT KIM DEPARTED JAPAN LEAVING HIS

FAMILY BEHIND, OSTENSIBLY TO RETURN TO ROK, BUT INSTEAD SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN UNITED STATES. (MOFA DIPLOMATIC LIST SHOWS THAT KIM IN-SU ASSIGNED TO ROK EMBASSY AS AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, SEPTEMBER 15, 1971.) PRESS REPORTS THAT PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF KIM IN-SU UNKNOWN.

7. LATER THURSDAY EVENING, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO INFORMED PRESS THAT GOJ HAS INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TO MEET WITH ROK PM KIM JONG-PIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. HOWEVER, NIKAI DO WOULD NOT PREDICT WHEN MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE. NIKAI DO EXPRESSED QTE EXTREME REGRET UNQTE THAT ROK CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO COOPERATE IN ARRANGING FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG-WOON TO SUBMIT VOLUNTARILY TO QUESTIONING BY JAPANESE POLICE, ADDING THAT JAPAN MAY HAVE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH QTE INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENTS UNQTE. NIKAI DO DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THESE MIGHT BE, BUT INDICATED SHARPLY THAT THERE IS LIMIT TO GOJ PATIENCE.

8. JAPANESE POLICE SOURCES QUOTED IN PRESS THURSDAY REPEATED

THEIR BELIEF THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTED BY WELL ORGANIZED TEAM, COMPOSED OF FOUR GROUPS TOTALLING TWENTY TO TWENTY-SIX MEN. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, FIVE-MAN ADVANCE TEAM, USING ALIAS QTE KINJIRO HATANAKA UNQTE RESERVED ROOM IN GRAND PALACE HOTEL TO WHICH KIM INITIALLY TAKEN. SECOND GROUP OF SIX MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN KIM FROM HOTEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TOKYO TO PORT IN KANSAI AREA. THIRD GROUP OF EIGHT TO TEN MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN KIM BY SHIP FROM KANSAI PORT TO ROK. FINALLY, FOURTH GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE MOVED KIM FROM ROK PORT TO HIS HOME IN SEOUL. SOURCES ALSO QUOTED POLICE SUSPICION THAT ROK EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG-WOON WAS MEMBER OF SECOND GROUP, AND THAT OFFICIAL OF ROK CONSULATE IN KOBE, AHN YUN-KYUNG, WAS MEMBER OF GROUP WHICH HELD KIM IN KANSAI.

9. ELSEWHERE THURSDAY, ANTI-PARK ELEMENTS OF ROK-ORIENTED KOREAN RESIDENTS UNION (MINDAN) PROTESTED TO ROK EMBASSY, CHARGING ROKG COVER-UP OF QTE CRIME UNQTE. PROTESTERS DEMANDED THAT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG-WOON APPEAR FOR QUESTIONING BY JAPANESE POLICE, THAT ROK EMBASSY EVACUATE ALL KCIA AGENTS FROM JAPAN IMMEDIATELY, AND THAT ROKG PERMIT KIM TAE-CHUNG TO RETURN TO JAPAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS REFUSED TO ALLOW MINDAN GROUP TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR LEE HO. NORTH KOREA-ORIENTED GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF KOREAN RESIDENTS (CHOSEN SOREN) ALSO PUBLICLY DEMANDED THAT ROKG ALLOW KIM TAE-CHUNG TO RETURN TO JAPAN AND THAT JAPAN SUSPEND ECONOMIC AID TO ROK.

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